

the Mississippi River in Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District of which I proudly represent.

This plant provides 30 percent of electricity for Xcel Energy customers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Michigan making it an important part of the region's energy infrastructure.

However, without Yucca or a comparable solution, all fuel generated in its 42 years of operation has been stored on-site. That equates to 2,550 used fuel assemblies and close to 1000 metric tons of nuclear waste sitting on an island in the middle of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Speaker, this is absurd.

In 2009, the Administration ended the Yucca program without any alternative strategy and after taxpayers already spent 15 billion dollars to ensure the safety and security of the Yucca Mountain site.

The dereliction by the Administration leaves us open to both environmental and national security risks. Minnesotans know too well the threat of home-grown terrorism with recent threats made to the Mall of America. We need a safe and secure site to store our nuclear waste out of the reach of potential terrorists. We need to move forward with Yucca Mountain.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and all Minnesotans deserve better and I join my colleagues today in urging support for the Yucca Mountain site.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT VETERANS DESERVE THE HEALTH AND LIVING STANDARDS THEY FOUGHT TO PROTECT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that veterans deserve the health and living standards they fought to protect. This resolution pays tribute to the vast numbers of men and women who have served our nation in uniform, yet return home from service homeless, some of whom survive war to die on the streets of this country.

Today, we are completing the two longest wars in U.S. history at great sacrifice to many soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines and their families. When these men and women return home they utilize their skills and leadership as wonderful assets in their communities. But for some, there are no homes.

In the words of one homeless veteran, "When we go into the military, we learn self-discipline, and we learn not to ask for anything, we learn to get it for ourselves, or just do without it. And we are a proud people, us military veterans. We don't ask for anything.

But it should never be a society that allows their veterans to go across the water to protect this country and come back and have to live on the streets. It shouldn't be that way."

These courageous Americans have stood up in defense of our freedom, and we owe them more than our gratitude—we owe them our firm commitment to ensure that they receive the care and benefits they earned through their service.

On any given night, nearly 50,000 military veterans sleep in homeless shelters or on the streets. Furthermore, approximately 260,000 veterans use homeless shelters or other services during the course of a year.

Homeless veterans have become a focal point in the broader fight to prevent and end homelessness in America. We may all take pride and comfort in the recent finding that homelessness among veterans has begun to decrease. One of the biggest contributors to the decreased number of homeless veterans has been the increased federal investment in efficient and effective programs. In addition, there has been significant progress, but more must be done. It is time that we recognize these unsung heroes who have returned from service to face hard times and homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we recognize our nation's homeless veterans. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critically important resolution.

TO HONOR THE CAREER OF CAPTAIN DARRELL BURGESS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanly County Sheriff Captain Darrell Burgess for his faithful service over the last 40 years to North Carolina's 8th Congressional District.

Captain Burgess has served professionally with the Stanly County Sheriff's Office where he moved up in the ranks from an employee of the Communications Division, to a sworn Deputy Sheriff after his completion of Basic Law Enforcement Training, and finally to Captain of Patrol. He has been chosen twice by his peers as the Stanly County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

During his time with the Sheriff's Office, Captain Burgess served as one of the first K-9 officers in Stanly County, where he worked with a bloodhound named Lucky. He holds a certification as a state instructor from the North Carolina Police Work Dog Association, as well as with the North American Police Work Dog Association. Additionally, Captain Burgess volunteers with the North Carolina Canine Emergency Response Team.

Captain Burgess has dedicated his time to Stanly County, both as a volunteer and public servant, since 1970 when he first started working for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Captain Burgess was one of the

first Emergency Medical Technicians in the state, served with the Oakboro Rural Fire Department, and volunteered for more than 30 years with the Stanly County Rescue Squad, where he even served as chief. Despite a kidney transplant in 2008, Captain Burgess has never slowed down and returned to work and volunteering after only three months.

Because of his lifetime of service through his volunteer work and vocation, Captain Burgess was bestowed the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" award in April 2015, which is the highest civilian honor awarded in North Carolina. Our state and local community have greatly benefitted from his servant leadership.

It is an honor to extend these remarks today to congratulate Captain Burgess on his retirement and receiving the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" award.

CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 17, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note that on April 10—while Congress was out of session—we celebrated the 36th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). As a Taiwan-born American immigrant, I take pride in this landmark piece of legislation, which has provided Taiwan with a great deal of stability and support as it transformed itself into a vibrant democracy, advanced economy and civil society.

The TRA was intended by Congress to endure, continuing the important relationship between close friends and allies. I am heartened by the strengthening of ties that have taken place in recent years, from Taiwan's admission to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, the first visit of a Cabinet-level official since the Clinton Administration in 2014, and Taiwan's shift from our 12th-largest trading partner in 2013 to our 10th-largest in 2014.

As Los Angeles County's fourth largest trading partner, Taiwan has a unique relationship with my district. With the largest Taiwanese population in the country, it is no coincidence that Los Angeles County is often seen as the international gateway between the United States and Taiwan.

Taiwan has much to offer the international community. It has proven a responsible global citizen by assisting international organizations during humanitarian crises and disasters, from its efforts following the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami to its contribution of 100,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipment to West Africa last year for use in the fight against Ebola. These acts are emblematic of a people with whom we share many values.

On this occasion of the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our greetings and best wishes to the people and leaders of Taiwan.